EPILEPSY FOUNDATION
Connecticut

Testimony In Support of Senate Bill 373, An Act Limiting Changes to Health Insurers' Prescription Drug Formularies

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna, members of the committee. My name is Linda Wallace and I'm the Executive Director of the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut. Though I can't be there in person, I felt it necessary to submit my remarks for the record in support of Raised Senate Bill 373.

Both on the national and state level, the Epilepsy Foundation has been working to ensure that those suffering with chronic diseases like Epilepsy have the healthcare coverage they need. This includes having their drugs covered in a consistent manner.

Epilepsy is a chronic condition that requires the utmost attention to detail and adherence to treatment. Anticonvulsant and anti-epilepsy drugs are particularly unique and do not affect all persons with epilepsy in the same way. What works for one person can send another to the emergency room.

The danger associated with an unexpected drug formulary change made during the plan year is very high for someone with epilepsy. It could take many attempts to finally find the right medication or combination of medications to keep a person on a healthy level. When a physician and their patient decide on a course of treatment and choose their particular medications they should be confident that no coverage for that specific drug will be lost without warning.

Consumers choose their health plans based not just on cost but really on what medications that they're taking are covered. People depend on their medications to maintain their health and function in their daily lives.

Everything that can be done should be done to make sure that removing a covered drug from a formulary during the health plan mid-year cannot happen. SB 373 will provide people with chronic disease the stability and confidence in their health plan drug coverage that they deserve.

Thank you

Linda Wallace

Executive Director, Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut